

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130589 121925Z /41
O 121430Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3363

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1902

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BB, US
SUBJECT: TEXT OF GOB "AIDE MEMOIRE"

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1900, 1901

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A DOCUMENT RECEIVED BY THIS
EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 5, 1977:

BEGIN QUOTE: AIDE MEMOIRE

IN RESPONSE TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE OF 11 MAY, 1977 FROM THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE GOVERNMENT
OF BARBADOS WISHES TO SET OUT ITS POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE
OPERATION OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AT HARRISON'S POINT,
ST. LUCY, BARBADOS.

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BARBADOS THE TERMS OF THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES SIGNED AT PORT-OF-SPAIN ON
10TH FEBRUARY, 1961 ARE NOT SATISFACTORY. CONSEQUENTLY
BARBADOS WILL BE PRESSING FOR MAJOR REVISIONS WHICH MUST TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT THE SOVEREIGN STATUS ACQUIRED BY BARBADOS
SUBSEQUENT TO 1961.

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BARBADOS IS PREPARED TO ENTER UPON SUBSTANTIVE
TALKS LEADING TOWARDS A NEW AGREEMENT ON CONDITION:
(8) THAT THE ECONOMIC TALKS WHICH SHOULD HAVE TAKEN
PLACE AFTER STAGE III OF THE 1961 AGREEMENT BE CONVENED,
AND THAT DISCUSSION ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BARBADOS
WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE NEW AGREEMENT BE CONDUCTED AND
BE RESOLVED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF THE

NEW AGREEMENT.

(II) THAT COMPENSATION FOR THE USE OF THE FACILITY AND OF THE ISLAND'S INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES DURING THE LIFE OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT (1961-1977) BE SETTLED, SUCH COMPENSATION TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE USE OF THE AIRPORT AND OF THE ROADS, AND ALSO THE FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR BARBADOS (AS WAS PROVIDED IN THE CASE OF OTHER CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES) DURING, AND SUBSEQUENT TO, THE 1961 NEGOTIATIONS.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE STAGE II AND STAGE III TALKS OF 1961 AND LATER, THE COUNTRIES BELOW RECEIVED INTER ALIA THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - US\$1.1M. PLUS GRANTS TO IMPROVE PORT FACILITIES AND ROADS, TO REHABILITATE THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAY AND TO DEVELOP THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AT ST. AUGUSTINE.

ST. LUCIA - US \$350,000 ILIS AID IN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF UTILITIES, EDUCATION FACILITIES AND FARMING.

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ANTIGUA - US\$350,000 PLUS FINANCE FOR EXTENSION OF RUNWAY, IMPROVEMENT OF DEEP WATER HARBOUR AND PROMOTION OF CORNMEAL INDUSTRY.

JAMAICA - US\$500,000 PLUS ASSISTANCE IN HOUSING, EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROJECTS.

BARBADOS PROPOSES THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1978 AND SHOULD BE OF FIVE YEARS' DURATION AT AN AGREED RENTAL. BARBADOS IS NOT PREPARED TO GRANT THE UNITED STATES AN ANNUAL UNILATERAL OPTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMPENSATION. IN THIS REGARD BARBADOS PROPOSES THAT IN THE EVENT OF WITHDRAWAL BY THE U.S. DURING THE LIFE OF THE AGREEMENT THE RENTAL FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT BE PAID IN FULL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BARBADOS REGARDS A LEASE ARRANGEMENT WITH A CASH CONSIDERATION OF US\$300,000 ANNUALLY AS QUITE INADEQUATE AND UNACCEPTABLE.

BARBADOS CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTING FACILITY DOES

NOT CONFER SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS ON THIS COUNTRY. THE FACILITY CONTRIBUTES TO WESTERN DEFENCE IN GENERAL AND TO THE SECURITY OF THE U.S.A. AND LATIN AMERICA IN PARTICULAR, WHILE EXPOSING BARBADOS TO THE THREAT OF RETALIATION IN THE EVENT OF OPEN CONFLICT.

BARBADOS FURTHER PROPOSES:

(I) THAT FOR THE USE OF THE BASE FROM 10TH FEBRUARY, 1961 UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1977 (DURING WHICH TIME THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS ENJOYED THE USE OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF BARBADOS WITH NO COMPENSATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PAY THE BARBADOS CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT US\$20 MILLION.

(II) THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1978 THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PAY THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS US\$5M. PER ANNUM AS RENT DURING THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY, 1978 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1982.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130621 121926Z /44
O 121430Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3364

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1902

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BARBADOS ALSO PROPOSES THAT TALKS IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE AND OF THE FUTURE OF

THE NAVAL FACILITY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED CONCURRENTLY. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC AREAS ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS AS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

(A) COASTAL ENGINEERING WORKS; THE PRELIMINARY COSTING AMOUNTS TO US\$5M. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPITAL AID ARE REQUIRED.

(B) LOW-COST HOUSING - IN ADDITION TO A CAPITAL SUM OF US\$10 MILLION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED. THERE IS A DEFICIENCY IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN SKILLED PERSONS INCLUDING QUANTITY SURVEYORS, ARCHITECTS AND FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS.

(C) TENANTRIES - CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS. A SUM OF US\$5 MILLION IS THE PRESENT ESTIMATE.

(D) CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS. A SUM OF US\$12.5 MILLION IS THE PRESENT ESTIMATE.

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(E) MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL WORKS FOR THE DEFENCE FORCE AND AUXILIARY SERVICES - US\$5 MILLION IS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR CAPITAL WORKS. A PROGRAMME OF TRAINING IS ALSO REQUIRED.

(F) AIRPORT SECURITY, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES. A SUM OF US\$2.5 MILLION IS THE PRESENT ESTIMATE.

(G) COAST GUARD, INCLUDING BOATS, TRAINING AND ADVICE ON THE LOCATION OF SUITABLE SITE - US\$3 MILLION IS URGENT (SIC) REQUIRED.

(H) DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY THROUGH THE SHARING AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

IN ADDITION THERE SHOULD BE AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF BILATERAL AID, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SOFT LOANS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT OR ANY RENEWAL OR EXTENSION THEREOF.

TO FACILITATE CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS IS PREPARED TO GRANT AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1978 ON THE CLEAR CONDITION THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT REACHED WILL BE DEEMED TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1978 DESPITE THE EXTENSION OF SIX MONTHS. THE GOVERNMENT

OF BARBADOS WISHES HOWEVER THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE
CONDUCTED URGENTLY AND WITH ALL DESPATCH.

BARBADOS WISHES THAT THE CLOSE PERSONAL TIES AND
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS WHICH HAVE MARKED THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS AND
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BE
CONTINUED.

BARBADOS ALSO HOPES THAT THE MUTUAL COOPERATION AND
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS AND PEOPLES WHO VALUE
HIGHLY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE
PROMOTED.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS THEREFORE ANTICIPATES
THAT THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO
THE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE TWO NATIONS, AND
WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
4TH AUGUST, 1977. END QUOTE.
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